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Drink NOTORIOUSLY

Find out which drink you should toast with on St. Patrick's Day from Ireland's baddest, former UFC champion Conor McGregor. 2

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A toast to *St. Patrick's Day* with Conor McGregor

The UFC superstar talks whiskey, business and more ahead of the holiday. **MATT JUUL**

St. Patrick's Day is right around the corner, and who better to celebrate with than Irish fighting phenom Conor McGregor. While the former two-division UFC champion has been on a bit of a break from the Octagon in recent months, that hasn't stopped him from taking over the whiskey game with his brand Proper No. Twelve. Ahead of this weekend's holiday, we caught up with McGregor to chat about his growing whiskey business, how he likes to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, and more.

After so much success in and outside of the Octagon, why did starting a whiskey brand feel like the right move for you?
The decision to make my own Irish whiskey was very natural, almost inevitable. I've always loved Irish whiskey — I'm a true Irishman after all. My grandfather, god rest his soul, played a huge role in my taste for Irish whiskey. He always told me about his love for it, even when I was too young to have some. He would be proud of my Irish whiskey, Proper No. Twelve.

Over the years, I've been approached by many Irish whiskey brands asking me to endorse their product. I have nothing against endorsement deals; I have several with brands and products I believe in, that is no secret. However, Irish whiskey was always different for me. I wanted to create something that will still be here generations from now. Whiskey is timeless and we Irish make the best whiskey there is.

I think we expected creating our own Irish whiskey to be a little easier than it was. It turned into a long, complicated project, but I wasn't going to rush the process. We all know I thrive on a challenge and on hard work. I found the best in the business; the oldest distillery on the isle of Ireland with a proven history of whiskey-making. I met my master distiller, previously at Guinness, and together we went through painstaking measures to create the Proper No. Twelve blend.

I love Ireland, its land and its people. I was born here, will raise my children here, and I will die here. I wanted to make a proper Irish whiskey — something that would make my people proud.

Fans have fallen in love with the Proper brand already. Were you surprised by how fast it's grown in such a short amount of time?
The reaction to Proper No. Twelve has been energizing. We have reached unprecedented new heights with this liquid gold. Hundreds of thousands of people from all over the world have been reaching out asking where they can purchase a bottle.

The feedback we've received on our liquid and brand has been outstanding, and the support from people around the world has made me proud and has been incredibly humbling.

At launch, I told everyone I was going to give this my all and take the whiskey market by storm, and we did just that, with more to come. I expected Proper No. Twelve to be well received because it is a proper Irish whiskey and it is very reasonably priced. It is a blend of grain and the finest single malt Ireland has to offer. The taste is full-flavored, smooth and approachable. So was I surprised? No. But did I expect to sell six months' worth of product in 10 days? Did I expect to sell out? Of course I did! You know you are doing well when your competition is reacting to you, doing all they can to slow you down and spending piles of cash targeting your brand on social media. We have not spent any money forcing the brand. It has all been organic, real and magical. We are the most-followed wine and spirit brand on social media in the world already.

We will make millions of bottles just in our first year and I am proud of that. We will be in multiple countries in our first year as well, which is something others said could not be done. Don't doubt the Champ Champ.

How do you like to celebrate St. Patrick's Day these days (aside from sipping on Proper)?
I like to take a moment and stop and have a toast and say thank you to first responders. They are real heroes and I feel proud and lucky that we can support local first responders with sales from Proper No. Twelve.

How has fighting helped you in the world of business and growing a brand like Proper?
I always apply the lessons I've learned throughout my life to whatever the current project at hand is, so MMA and Proper No. Twelve is no different.

A strong work ethic, the desire to learn and holding yourself accountable will get you far.

It would've been easy to just sign an endorsement deal or have someone else do all of the hard work, the tastings, etc., and just give me an overview. But that's not how I do things. Throughout the development process I was in training, I was fighting, I had a kid. I'm a perfectionist, I don't do anything half-assed. I wasn't going to sacrifice the quality or taste of Proper No. Twelve to check it off the bucket list — this project means way more to me than that. Proper No. Twelve is who I am, and although I was anxious at times to just launch it — I couldn't wait to share it with the world — I'm so glad I took the time, put in the hard work, have the best team in the business, and launched it properly.

Everyone wants to know when we'll see you back in the Octagon. Should we expect to see you back at some point this year?
Right now, I'm focused on my training to get back into the Octagon. I can't tell you when that will be, but I can tell you I am ready.

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Fun things to do for St. Paddy's Day 2019

Here's your ultimate guide to St. Patrick's Day events around the Hub. MOIRA CALLAHAN

It's no secret that Boston is filled with Irish-Americans. The American Census Bureau reported that 20% of people living in Boston claimed to be of Irish ancestry. That's nearly a quarter of Boston who bleed green—luckily for the rest of us, you only need the spirit of an Irishman to celebrate St. Paddy's Day. This is our guide for the best five things to do for St. Paddy's Day 2019.

Celtic Sojourn with Brian O'Donovan

WGBH's concert series returns this year with its 12th annual A St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn with Brian O'Donovan. Per tradition, the concert returns to Harvard University's Sanders Theatre for two shows on Saturday, March 16. The matinee concludes the concert series on March 17 at the Cabot Theatre. Guests can enjoy the musical talents of The Friel Sisters, Yann Falquet and Pascal Gemme, Keith Murphy and Katie McNally and Neil Pearlman, and more! *Through March 17, various locations, $26+,*

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wgbh.org

Pipe Night at Double Chin

This year, the Asian fusion restaurant, Double Chin, is hosting a special celebration for St. Paddy's Day. Guests can decorate St. Paddy's Day-inspired water pipes, participate in trivia and giveaways and enjoy St. Paddy's Day menu and drink items. Your first is included, up to a $10 value.

March 12, 7 p.m.-9 p.m., 86 Harrison Avenue, $60, doublechinbos.com

Beat Brew Hall St. Paddy's Celebration

Beat Brew Hall is hosting a St. Paddy's celebration on Saturday, March 15 with Harpoon Brewery and Jameson Irish Whiskey. Guests can enjoy live music by Irish singer and songwriter Katie McD, TJovi Ginen and more, along with Irish-inspired dishes. Executive Chef Patrick Engage is serving an a la carte menu featuring Corned Beef and Cabbage, and a traditional Irish breakfast.

March 16, 11 p.m.-2 a.m., 13A Brattle St, Cambridge, beatbrewhall.com

Pub crawls

A classic staple of St. Paddy's Day for Boston is pub crawling. Partygoers have multiple chances to catch a crawl throughout the weekend at Fenway and Faneuil Hall. These crawls are making stops at some of Boston's best venues— Hard Rock, Mija Cantina, Son's of Boston and more!

March 15-17, various locations, $7.77+, pubcrawls.com

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Last but not least, the St. Paddy's Day Parade is still a favorite for celebrating the big day. Get out your favorite green and orange clothes, and have some aspirin and Gatorade on stand by for the morning. The parade is going to kick off at Broadway Station and end at Andrew Square, finishing with a deafening roar of cheers. This is one Boston holiday you don't want to miss.

March 17, 1 p.m., South Boston, southbostonparade.org

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Effective **March 14, 2019,** 75 Amory in accordance with the Tenant Selection Plan had determined that the waiting list for all bedroom sizes covered by the Section 8 Program will now be closed. The reason for closure is that it has been determined that the wait for an apartment will be at least one year or more for possible occupancy.

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Information contained herein subject to change w/o notice. PEABODY PROPERTIES, INC.

Finding the fairy tale

Billy Aronson talks his versatile career with shows like "Rent" and "Peg and Cat."

MOLLY GIVEN
Molly.Given@metro.us

Aronson regularly works with popular kids programs. ALL PHOTOS GETTY

Billy Aronson wears many hats. The skilled playwright and writer has been a huge force in many notable plays and television shows for years, quietly and tenaciously putting out incredible content for audiences of all ages. Aronson is best known for helping to create the smash hit musical "Rent," and also helping to create and write for other wildly popular children's shows such as "Courage the Cowardly Dog," "Codename: Kids Next Door," "The Backyardigans," "Peg and Cat" and many more. Aronson sat down with Metro to discuss his career, his outlook on life and how speaking from your heart is the most important tool you have.

Aronson is used to being versatile in his career, which has made his writing so transparent and relatable. "I always think the best stories are true for everybody, like a great fairy tale," says Aronson. "Think of great picture books like 'The Giving Tree' or 'Where the Wild Things Are' — there's something for everyone there."

But Aronson does always keep in mind exactly who his audience is. "I wrote for 'Beavis and Butthead' and lots of plays for grown-ups that had adult themes. I gravitate toward certain themes that are adult. But for young kids, it very much feels the same," says Aronson. "If you're doing a play for an audience that doesn't speak English, you don't use English — you have to use a language people understand. You don't change what you're saying and you don't change who you are as a speaker. For me, there's always a certain goofiness. Even with grown-up plays, there's something goofy. You could even call it juvenile if you want."

Having that sense of goofiness has proved to be a successful tool when writing his shows. Aronson's "Peg and Cat" has received critical acclaim and recently has been turned into a stage show that is touring major cities in the country now. "At a party, I tend to relate to the littlest kid in the room, even when there are grown-ups there. It's my sense of humor and physical comedy and goofiness. I really make a good friend of that

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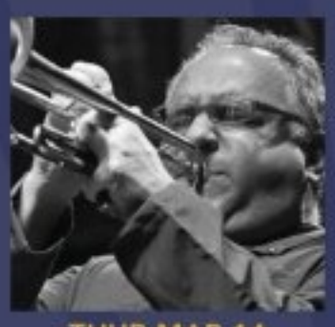
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FRI MAR 15
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UPCOMING SHOWS

MAR 21 LATIN JAZZ THURSDAYS: MIXCLA
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MAR 28 LATIN JAZZ THURSDAYS: CARLOS CAPACHO GROUP THE VIBRANT HEART OF VENEZUELAN SOUNDS
MAR 29 ANN HAMPTON CALLAWAY JAZZ GOES TO THE MOVIES
MAR 30 JANE BUNNETT MAQUEQUE
APR 4 MANUEL VALERA
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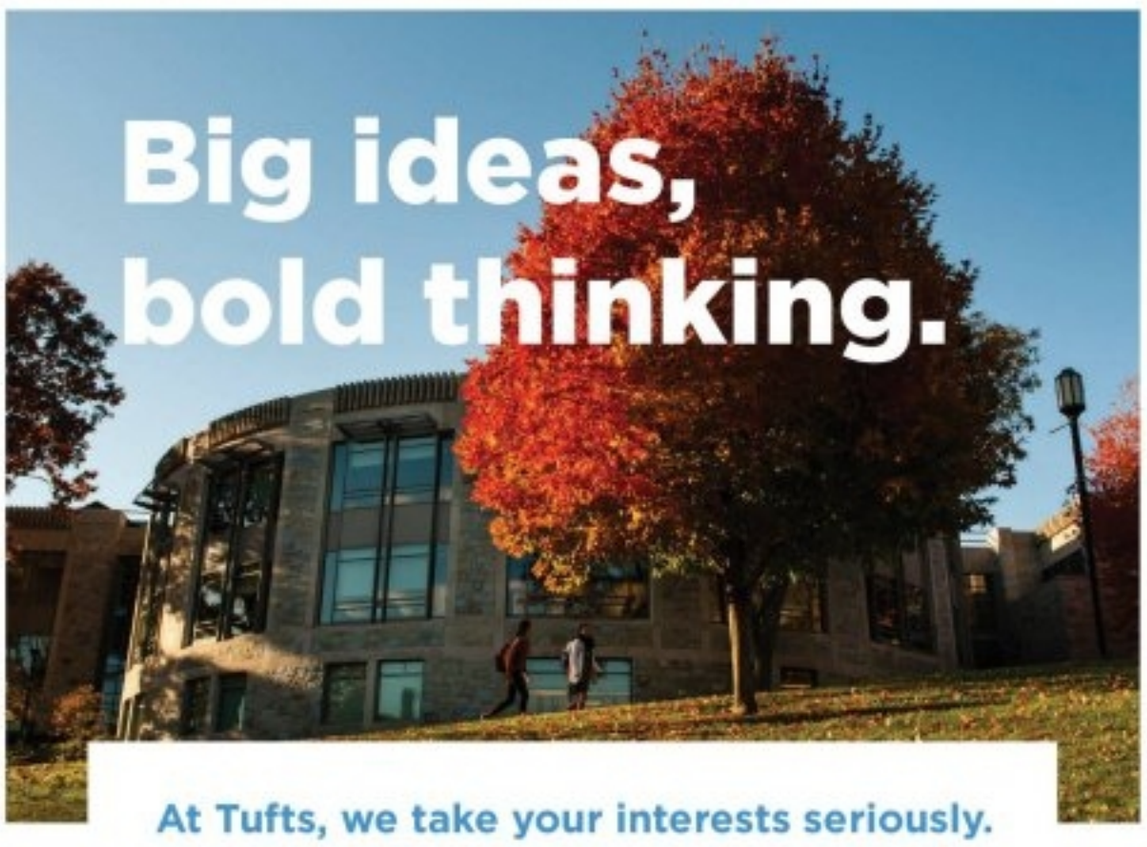

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Aronson helped create the popular musical "Rent."

four-year-old in the room. At the same time, I want to tell the truth. I don't talk down to kids."

Keeping that in mind, Aronson always tries to implement his outlook on life in his work. "Some endings to my shows — for example, 'Peg and Cat' — are happy. But that's really how I look at the world. I have a cheerful outlook. I see the world in a positive way. I'm not faking it and I don't feel like I'm making something up by presenting these stories in which love saves things," says Aronson. "I don't make it easy, I don't cheat. I hope I'm not sentimental and melodramatic. I think I tell stories that are true, like a good fairy tale. If you want to get to this happy ending, you have to sacrifice this and that. You have to earn it."

It's hard to imagine shifting from creating hard-hitting stories for adults to writing lighthearted stories for children, but Aronson has mastered both. Plus, the different spectrums of his writing style are more similar than you think. "I'm not foolish enough to put sex in a pre-K show like 'Peg and Cat,' or put an elementary math equation into 'Rent.' But there's a basis with these stories that are centered around true friends. Both of those stories really are about friendship, and they both have music that I love and clever lyrics. It basically comes down to speaking from your heart as a writer."

Speaking from his heart is what has launched Aronson's career and kept his success afloat and abundant. "I used to do a lot of different money gigs and I found you just can't do it unless you write what you love. Whatever the project is, however silly it might seem or commercial, if you can't find a way to have it intersect where your heart is, you won't do it very well."

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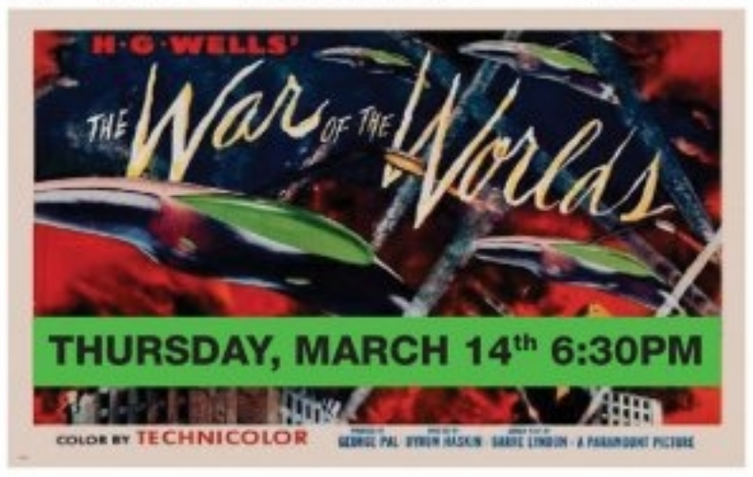
ISSUE No. 6 THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2019 Metro & Local Edition

FAKE DRAMA SCARES NATION AS NEWS OF SPACESHIPS INVADING DRAW 9-1-1 CALLS

Arlington, MA – Scores of Spy Ponders flocked to Arlington's *Showplace of Entertainment* over the weekend in response to a publicity stunt condemned by local police and officials. Actress Ann Robinson, who is appearing at the Regent as part of a special *Meet & Greet* disavowed any knowledge of the stunt. She will return for the Thursday night screening.

This alien spaceship, shot at close range by a local photographer, hovered nearby the Regent Theatre as patrons walked on to Medford Street. It later was seen on Massachusetts Avenue nearby a historic fire station to only disappear over Spy Pond later.

The War of the Worlds - 1953



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APR 11

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APR 5
FRANKIE VALLI & THE FOUR SEASONS
APR 12-13-14

BRIAN REGAN
MAR 16
KRIS KRISTOFFERSON
APR 19
COUNTESS AND FRIENDS
APR 25

PEG + CAT LIVE!
MAR 23
TOM SEGURA
APR 26-28
CHRIS BOTTI
MAY 5
ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK
MAY 10

WHINDERSSON NUNES
MAR 24
ABBA THE CONCERT
MAY 17
PAULA POUNDSTONE
JUNE 21

5 BEST DIY VIDEO GAME CONSOLES

DANIEL CASILLAS | METRO WORLD NEWS

There are powerful and popular video game consoles on the market, but wouldn't it be great to create one on your own? Metro highlights the best DIY options.

MAKERBUINO

This small gadget is an open source handheld game device that you can build by yourself. MAKERbuino is also an educational device shaped like a game console, that seeks to motivate people to explore, learn and create something new in a fun and interesting way.

PYXA

Pyxa comes as a DIY kit as well, allowing users to develop game console and create video games. This 8-bit gadget by Creoqode also can run your favourite retro games, including Pacman, Tetris, Asteroids, Flappy Bird, and Snake.

2048

2048 is an open-source game console. It comes as an all-inclusive do-it-yourself kit that allows to build it and create own video games whilst learning about coding. Users are also able to share their games with others through a cloud.

SAINSMART

This DIY console has a long control area. It is open source, so that you can modify the codes and play the games you like on it. SainSmart comes with 4 retro games: Tetris, Snake, Racing, Shooting, that will bring you back to the 90s.

GAMEBUINO

Although this console is already assembled, it is an excellent option to encode and make your own video games. The console itself is a development tool that allows you to easily make a game in a progressive and simple way. Code on your computer and see the result directly on the console.

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Grumble Editor

READER WRITE-INS:

A 'HUMBLE' POEM

Yesterday is dead and gone
Trapped in an urn in yr midnight memory.
But, I find love
In the faces of the children,
and in dogs and cats on couches.
And I find love in books & flowers
and ballerinas eating lunch,
and strangers stopping to help you when you've fallen.
And I find love in the glow of the lonely firefly.

— **Richard Y.**, *Metro US reader*

KEEP YOUR FEET ON THE FLOOR!

Yesterday on an evening train home, I was working on my laptop when a guy sat next to me. He promptly crossed his leg so his foot was almost touching my laptop. Please be mindful of the space around you!

— **Abbey**, *Metro Philly reader*

VENT TO US!
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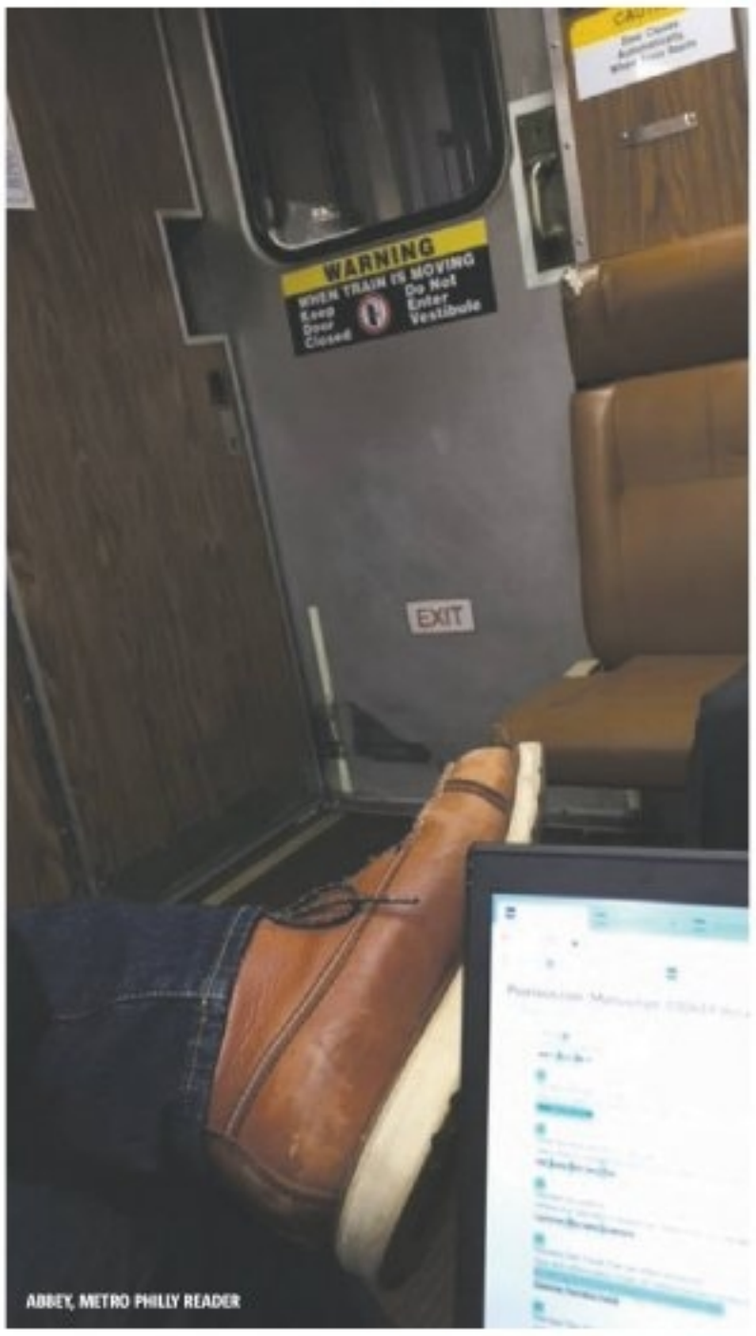

ABBEY, METRO PHILLY READER

Please remember to send your Humbles to **humble@metro.us**. These submissions can be acts of gratitude, positivity or kindness that you have seen throughout the day.

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INVITE THE WORLD TO YOUR EVENTS

List your event on metro.us/events

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Don't let the past limit what you can do in the future. Put old problems to rest so you can find new ways to fill your life with worthwhile activities and interesting people.

Taurus Your changing attitude will fit right in with the current economic climate. More time spent organizing and preparing for new possibilities will pay off, as long as you don't present your plans prematurely.

Gemini Spend more time honing your skills and making sure you can live up to your claims. Sticking to your priorities will ensure that you don't fall short and damage your reputation.

Cancer Creativity mixed with stamina and common sense will lead you to the winner's circle. The changes you make will add to your popularity and gain you needed help.

Leo One step forward and three steps back. Don't rush or make sudden changes without thinking matters through. Look at the big picture and make subtle changes.

Virgo Your ability to find what and who you need to expand your interests will lead you to success. Network and share with like-minded people.

Libra Look at every angle and contemplate outcomes. If you take your time, you will find that you will change your mind several times before coming up with the best route.

Scorpio You'll slide into home plate if you give your all to a creative pursuit. Whether forging a closer relationship with someone or honing a talent or skill, much will be accomplished.

Sagittarius Trust facts, not what someone tells you. Exaggeration, indulgence and emotional manipulation should not be allowed to influence the choices you make.

Capricorn Put family and domestic matters first. Listen to information offered from experts, but make decisions keeping in mind everyone who will be affected by them.

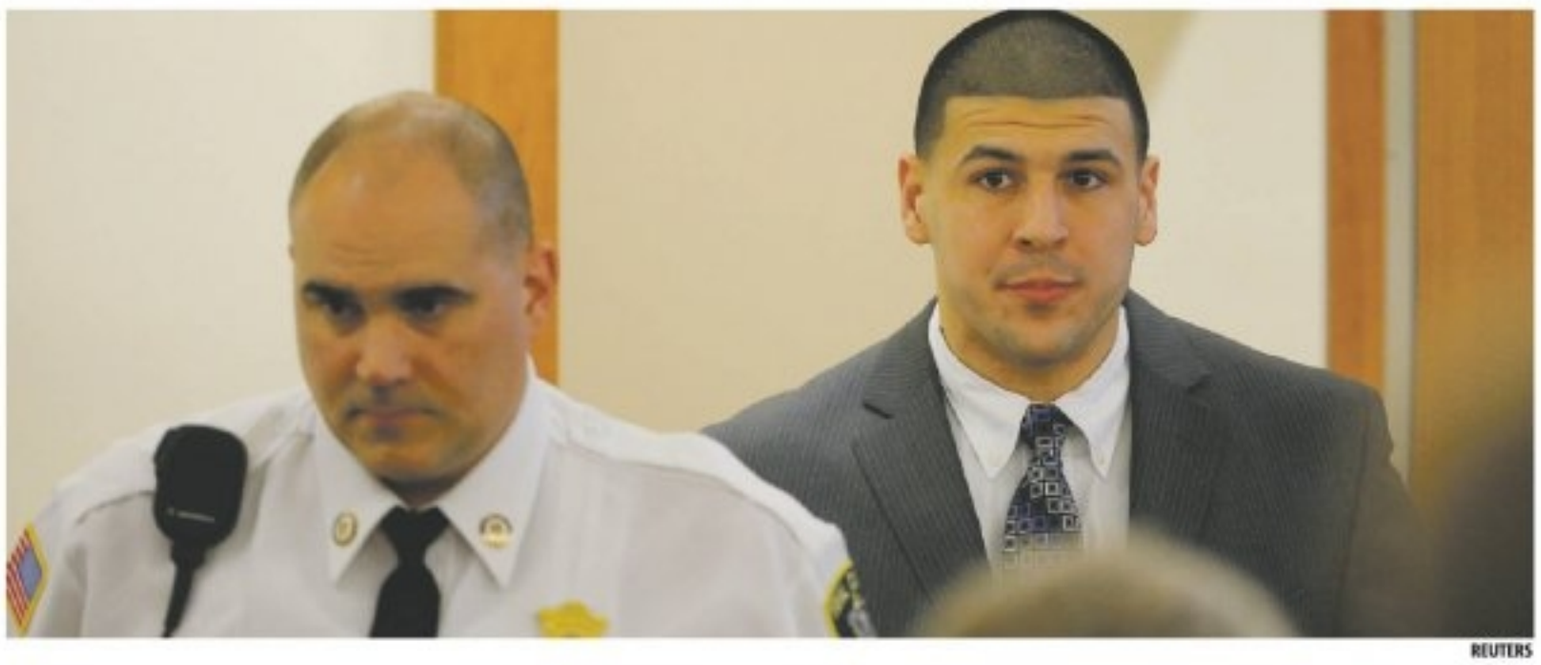
Aquarius Personal pampering and taking time to relax should be on your agenda. A break will give you time to assess your position and consider how you should move forward.

Pisces Listen carefully and decipher what's actually being said. Exaggeration and forcefulness should not be allowed to sway your opinion. Confusion and delays can be expected. Question everyone and everything.

EUGENIA LAST

Ex-Pats star Aaron Hernandez's murder conviction reinstated

Massachusetts' top court's decision clears the way for the victim's family to file a wrongful death lawsuit.



REUTERS

Massachusetts' top court on Wednesday reinstated former New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez's conviction on charges of murdering an acquaintance in 2013, making it easier for the victim's family to sue his estate.

Hernandez hung himself in his prison cell in 2017, days after being cleared of a separate 2012 double murder, leading a lower-court judge to toss his conviction under a longstanding state legal doctrine that vacated guilty sentences for people who died before they had exhausted the appeals process.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court scrapped that legal doctrine, saying that it was not in keeping with norms of "contemporary life."

"When a defendant dies irrespective of cause, while a direct appeal as of right challenging his conviction is pending, the proper course is to dismiss the appeal as moot," the court said.

Hernandez was convicted in 2015 of murdering acquaintance Odin Lloyd in an industrial park near his home by the Patriots' stadium and sentenced to life in prison without possibility of parole. In 2017, he was cleared in a separate case of murdering two Cape Verdean men outside a Boston nightclub after a dispute over a spilled drink.

After the 27-year-old former athlete hung himself, his family turned his brain over to scientists who determined that Hernandez had one of the worst cases of the brain disease chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) that they had ever seen.

CTE, which can cause premature dementia and violent behavior, is a condition caused by the sort of repeated head hits that have long been part of football. Multiple former players have sued the league over it and the NFL has scrambled to change rules to reduce the risk.

The high court's decision clears the way for the victim's family to file a wrongful death lawsuit against Hernandez, who had a $41 million contract when he was arrested for Lloyd's killing, said Robert Bloom, a professor at Boston College Law School.

"What it means is that Lloyd's family might be able to collect from the estate," Bloom said. "They would have an action against the estate because of the wrongful death of their family member." REUTERS

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Bar owners, police talk nightlife safety following two abductions in Boston

GETTY IMAGES

Boston police officials met with bar owners and club managers to discuss boosting security measures for nightlife in town after two young women were recently abducted, one of whom was murdered, after leaving Boston bars in two separate instances.

"There are predators out there," Boston Police Commissioner William Gross said after the meeting. "There are hunters out there. We want to show people that we are working together collaboratively."

Gross joined about 200 law enforcement officers, bar owners and club managers at the Ironworkers Local 7 Union in South Boston in what he said was the first of many planned patron security meetings. He also proposed a joint committee of city officials and liquor license holders in order to create a dialogue centered around preserving patron safety.

According to Gross, the groups proposed adding more security cameras around bars, as surveillance footage played crucial roles in catching two men charged with kidnapping and other troubling charges in two different instances in the first two months of 2019.

Victor Pena, 38, of Charlestown is facing sealed charges pertaining to kidnapping and raping a Jamaica Plain resident whom police found being held against her will in Pena's Charlestown apartment.

Louis D. Coleman III, 32, of Providence, Rhode Island, faces federal kidnapping charges in Massachusetts as well as kidnapping, refusal to report a death with intent to conceal a crime and mutilation of a dead human body charges from Rhode Island.

"There are hunters out there. We want to show people that we are working together collaboratively."

William Gross, Boston Police Commissioner

Officials apprehended Coleman in Delaware and reportedly found the dead body of Jassy Correia, a 23-year-old Lynn mother last seen leaving her birthday celebration at a Boston nightclub in February.

Slades Bar and Grill owner Shawn Hunter told NPR that while he was unsure what security improvements specifically entail, he was glad that law enforcement had organized the meetings.

"This is the first step, so the follow-up is important to see where this goes and what this meeting means," Hunter said in an interview with WBUR.

According to data compiled by MassLive, Massachusetts has 15 cold cases as far back as 1951 in which 10 women are the victims. Of the 10 cases, four involve abductions.

Perhaps the most horrific unsolved murder in Boston's history is the 1996 murder and disposal of a 19-year-old Swedish au pair. Last seen dancing at Zanzabar, Karina Holmer's mutilated body was found in a Back Bay dumpster. Officials still don't know who killed her. NATE HOMAN

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Check out 'America's most romantic beach' at 'Tween Waters Island Resort & Spa

'Tween Waters Island Resort & Spa, located between the Gulf of Mexico and Pine Island Sound, boasts 13 picturesque acres of luxury resort, including an extensive stretch of sugary, white-sand beach named "America's Most Romantic Beach" by Travelocity.

What began as a collection of fishing cottages dating from 1931 now includes 137 units and cottages that range from standard guest rooms, studios and three-bedroom suites to two- and three-bedroom historic cottages. Decorated in a rustic luxury style, many of the 19 historic cottages are named after the resort's famous past visitors, including Anne Morrow Lindbergh, J.N. "Ding" Darling and Theodore Roosevelt.

The rooms certainly are comfortable and cozy, but most visitors come to 'Tween Waters for the miles of unsullied beaches on its Gulf of Mexico side. Captiva and its sister island, Sanibel, are known to have some of the best shelling beaches in the world. You'll see many guests bent in the "Captiva Crouch," searching for the perfect specimens for hours on end.

"Tween Waters Inn is 'Captiva's Must Stay' but we think you might call it 'Captiva's Mustn't Leave'"
Florida Travel + Life

If you aren't the sun-soaking type, 'Tween Waters features a range of activities to keep things lively; the marina offers chartered boats, seaplanes, canoes and kayak rentals for island or deep sea fishing, shelling, touring or eco-adventures. The Gulf and sound are also known for their stock of fish, dolphins, and manatees. Take it nice and easy on a stand-up paddleboard adventure, or take a fast track in a jet ski rental.

This 85-plus-year-old resort has a deep history, but still delivers the amenities of any modern luxury resort. Try lounging at the calm and quiet "serenity" pool, or soak up the sun and fun in the Olympic-sized pool area with your tropical drink from the active Oasis Pool Bar. Head indoors to the remodeled day spa for a manicure, pedicure, or hair styling, or enjoy a relaxing individual or couple's massage overlooking the property.

In the evening, enjoy the historic, award-winning and newly renovated Old Captiva House, which hosts a range of gourmet dishes, or try the Crow's Nest Beach Bar & Grille, a local favorite for casual dining.

For family fun, on Monday and Thursday nights from October to mid-August, young and old flock to the Crow's Nest on property to view the popular Captiva Crab Races. Be prepared to get a little wet and be insulted by the comic host.

Florida Travel + Life calls 'Tween Waters Inn "Captiva's Must Stay" but we think you might call it "Captiva's Mustn't Leave."

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Doing your due diligence before flying

In light of the recent Boeing 737 MAX plane crash in Ethiopia, the world is beginning to demand answers from airlines.

PAT KING
patrick.king@metro.us

In light of the horrific Boeing 737 MAX 8 plane crash over the weekend in Ethiopia that killed 157 people, many airlines are choosing to ground all of these planes in order to keep their passengers safe. This was the second crash involving one of these planes in a span of six months. Oddly enough, there are still a few airlines willing to roll the dice on keeping these planes up in the air.

According to the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), there are currently around 350 Boeing 737 MAX planes being flown by 54 different airlines around the world. The U.S. airlines that still use the 737 MAX in their everyday operations are American Airlines, Southwest Airlines and United Airlines.

Many international airlines have chosen to ground these planes for the time being. Recently, the TUI Group, a U.K. travel group that includes many airlines throughout Europe, announced via Twitter that it would ground all Boeing 737 MAX 8 planes across all of its airlines. Some countries, such as Canada and the U.K., are even taking the additional step of prohibiting these planes from entering their airspace altogether. With mounting pressure to enact similar changes, President Trump announced on Wednesday an order to ground all 737 MAX 8 and 9 planes in the U.S.

So how can people take control and do the research into their modes of transportation so that they can avoid this sort of cataclysmic situation? After all, Boeing reportedly had been completely confident in the product it was producing. According to Business Insider, the 737 MAX was, initially, a massive success for Boeing with 4,699 orders in their books since the plane's unveiling in 2017.

But with two eerily similar and deadly crashes within such a short period of time, this seems like a watershed moment for air travel. In order to soothe the minds of rightfully skeptical travelers, the travel booking site Kayak has developed a brand-new filter that will now allow passengers from all over the world to book flights excluding certain problematic aircrafts in their searches.

If you have already booked a flight, however, you might want to start doing your own research on your reservation, if you happen to be flying out of one of those countries that has come to its senses. By using the TripAdvisor affiliate site SeatGuru, you will be able to enter your existing flight information — i.e., reservation number, airline, date, etc. — and receive greater detail on your flight, including the brand and model of the aircraft you are flying on.

While it is impossible to predict the future or even trust the concept of flying ever again, knowing that there are ways for passengers to do their due diligence ahead of their flights is going to change the industry for the better.

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Bill Belichick has earned the trust of Patriots fans by this time of year. GETTY IMAGES

PATRIOTS AGAIN CHOOSE SUBSTANCE OVER STYLE

OPINION

DANNY PICARD
@DannyPicard

By now, you either trust Bill Belichick or you don't.

I'm Team Belichick. Another round of Kool-aid on me. Drink up. My tab's open.

Seems like a yearly ritual, where I have to still try and convince some in New England that Belichick knows what he's doing. He does have a plan.

And most of the time, his plan has proven to be better than anyone else's. Which is starting to put this Patriots Kool-aid in the same category as a fine red wine, getting better with age.

As a new league year begins in the NFL this week, so does free agency. The plan, so far, is once again a value-play by Belichick, the coach and GM of the reigning and defending Super Bowl champions. He puts emotions aside, sets a certain value on a player, and acts accordingly. If another team offers that player more than what Belichick sees as that player's value, then it's up to the player to decide, "Do I go for another ring, or do I take the money?"

Defensive end Trey Flowers and offensive lineman Trent Brown took the money.

And let me be clear: Good for them. They earned it. I will never crush a pro athlete for taking the big payday, especially in the NFL.

Flowers signed a five-year, $90 million deal with the Detroit Lions, which includes $56 million guaranteed, with $40 million fully guaranteed at signing.

Brown signed a four-year, $66 million deal with the Oakland Raiders, which includes $36.75 million guaranteed, making him the highest-paid offensive lineman in NFL history.

Both players are just 25 years young, but the Patriots can be criticized more for losing Flowers, who totaled 21 sacks in 45 games over the last three seasons. That's not to say losing their offensive tackle should be completely ignored, but Brown — who replaced a formidable Nate Solder — was here for just one year, and if anything, it proved once again that offensive-line coach Dante Scarnecchia is an absolute wizard.

Everyone in New England should feel confident that Scarnecchia can coach up another lineman to protect Tom Brady's back side at a respectable level. Much like everyone in New England should feel that same confidence in Belichick's ability to make the right decisions in free agency.

Call it a "straw man" argument if you'd like, but every single offseason I see people here and there start whining and complaining when Belichick lets good players sign elsewhere and stays put while everyone else gets nuts.

Belichick hasn't gone after Antonio Brown, Odell Beckham, Le'Veon Bell, Earl Thomas, or any other superstar player who's been available in either a trade or free agency in the early stages of this new league year. Instead, he traded a 2020 fifth-round pick to Philadelphia for veteran defensive end Michael Bennett and a 2020 seventh-rounder. He re-signed veteran cornerback Jason McCourty to a two-year deal. He re-signed veteran running back Brandon Bolden to a two-year deal. And he re-signed linebacker John Simon.

Again, he knows what he's doing. Much like he knew what he was doing when he was actually aggressive two years ago by signing Stephon Gilmore to a five-year, $65 million deal with $40 million guaranteed on the first day of free agency. While it was a head-scratcher to some, it looks like Belichick got that one right, as Gilmore has proven to be one of the best cornerbacks in the NFL since signing with the Patriots.

And his "got that one right" list goes on and on. Has he made some mistakes? Sure. Who doesn't?

But Belichick has made the right moves much more often than not. Enough to where I'm comfortable putting my trust in him once again this offseason.

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Red Sox a good bet to snag close to 100 wins again

Vegas has the Red Sox with an over-under of 94.5 wins.

ROBERT CRISCOLA
letters@metro.us

With baseball's Opening Day drawing closer, Metro dives into the futures sports betting market, specifically win totals, and dishes out opinions on where some of the big-name teams will fall.

Boston Red Sox: 94.5 wins

Considering the Red Sox won a franchise-best 108 games last season, this total seems insulting.

Boston brings back virtually every big bat they had last year, including star outfielder Mookie Betts and DH J.D. Martinez. Chris Sale returns to front the rotation, along with David Price (who had a great 2018, postseason included).

The bullpen was shaky at times, even during the World Series run, and closer Craig Kimbrel may not return. But even if Boston's relief corps implodes, a 14-win regression seems unlikely.

The verdict: Over.

New York Yankees: 96.5 wins

The Yankees have the highest total of all 30 teams, tied with the Astros. They had a busy offseason, signing D.J. LeMahieu to a two-year deal to help bolster an infield that suffered too many at-bats last year from the likes of Neil Walker and Tyler Austin. Troy Tulowitzki, if healthy, could also compete for playing time while Didi Gregorious recovers from Tommy John surgery. New York has one of the game's best outfield combinations in Giancarlo Stanton, Aaron Judge and Aaron Hicks, but the latter two also need to avoid the injury bug.

The Yankees' rotation looks better than it did a year ago, with James Paxton invading from Seattle and a full year from J.A. Happ forthcoming. But with Luis Severino's Opening Day status in doubt, bettors can see that New York's depth may be tested. The Bombers' bullpen should be strong once more, but the addition of Adam Ottavino was negated by the loss of David Robertson.

The Yankees should get close to this number, but 96.5 wins just seems too ambitious to go over on with the defending champion Red Sox and pesky Rays in the AL East.

The verdict: Under.

New York Mets: 85.5 wins

There's a "boom-or-bust" feeling regarding the Mets this year, as first-year GM Brodie Van Wagenen made several "win now" moves, the biggest of which was the Robinson Cano/Edwin Diaz deal.

Cano, 36, will be accompanied by 33-year-old Todd Frazier on the infield along with 34-year-old Jed Lowrie (recently signed to a two-year contract), if those two are even ready for Opening Day. Frazier and Lowrie are already dealing with mysterious injuries, which sounds all too familiar for Mets fans.

Diaz, along with Jeurys Familia, are among New York's only reliable

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J.D. Martinez is poised for another monster year at the plate. GETTY IMAGES

relievers. Swing man Seth Lugo could become part of the rotation at a moment's notice, as that unit is perilously thin behind Cy Young winner Jacob deGrom. After the oft-injured Noah Syndergaard, Zack Wheeler and Steven Matz, Jason Vargas is the expected fifth starter.

It looks like the Mets didn't do enough to keep up with their NL East rivals.

The verdict: Under.

Philadelphia Phillies: 89.5 wins

Those considering the Phillies a World Series contender may want to tap on the brakes, but it looks like GM Matt Klentak did enough to make Philly the team to beat in the NL East.

The signing of superstar Bryce Harper might not have even been the Phillies' most important offseason move; they also won the J.T. Realmuto sweepstakes, shipping out a fleet of prospects for arguably the best catcher in the game. The addition of David Robertson to a mostly shaky bullpen from a year ago will help immensely. The veteran presence of Andrew McCutchen and Jean Segura will also help cut down on errors in the outfield and infield; Philly was among the most sloppy defensive teams in baseball in 2018.

Looking at the rotation, Aaron Nola was a Cy Young contender last year, Jake Arrieta is a reliable veteran, and youngsters Vince Velazquez, Nick Pivetta and Zach Eflin should improve with age. All systems are go for this group.

The verdict: Over.

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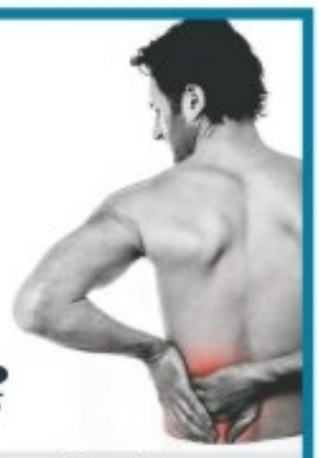

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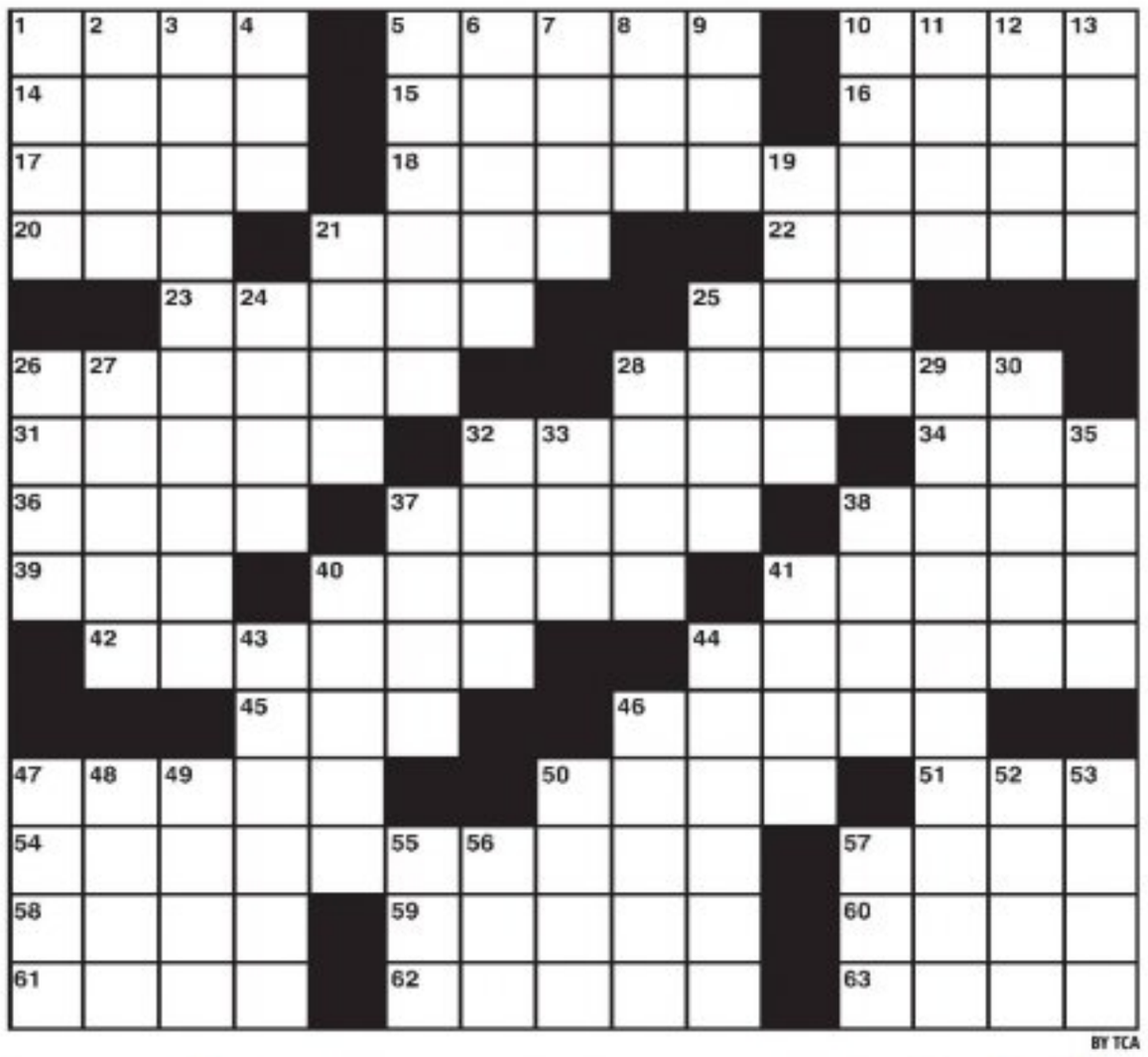

ACROSS
1 Walk by
5 Disguises
10 Early man
14 Daredevil Knievel
15 "Bye, Pierre!"
16 Long story
17 Easter flower
18 Circus leader
20 Suffix for Nepal or Japan
21 Reserve a room
22 Nourishes
23 Pandemonium
25 In good shape
26 One of the planets
28 Man of the cloth
31 Go out on __; take a risk
32 Felony
34 11/11 honoree
36 Make a mess at table
37 Check recipient
38 Colt's mother
39 Stealing or cursing
40 Adjusted a piano
41 Ointment
42 Flee
44 Bothers
45 Fleur-de-__
46 Short-lived
47 Goes on __; continues
50 Cry
51 WWII president
54 Hairdresser
57 Grow weary
58 Give, but expect back
59 __ firma; dry land
60 Decorated a cake
61 Uneasy
62 Grains planted
63 Latest information

DOWN
1 Soccer great
2 Rental car agency
3 Choices
4 Devious
5 Shade of red
6 "Bye, Juan!"
7 Basin
8 Beer barrel
9 Total
10 Valuables
11 Go out with
12 Elderly
13 Defaces
19 Blazing
21 Fishhook's end
24 Camel's feature
25 Renown
26 Talk back
27 TV's "Kate & __"
28 "The __ Piper of Hamelin"
29 Where to find Trump's desk
30 Cheeky
32 Charlie Chaplin's prop
33 Bread for a Reuben
35 Ball holders
37 Baby dogs
38 Lion's neck hair
40 Contaminate
41 Tiny cut
43 Weather forecast
44 Sports buildings
46 Vandyke, for one
47 Suffix for comfort or fashion
48 Have to have
49 "Phooey!"
50 Metal thread
52 Sketched
53 Cincinnati team
55 "__ Complicated"; Meryl Streep film
56 So-so grade
57 Cheap metal

BY TCA

metro.us/wordsearch

M	Y	Y	P	L	E	B	O	N	E
E	P	T	W	T	Y	O	O	Q	E
C	H	I	H	H	L	I	E	N	L
H	Y	V	T	E	T	Z	E	I	U
A	S	I	A	O	I	R	C	E	C
N	I	T	M	R	G	C	N	T	E
I	C	A	P	Y	Q	N	E	S	L
C	S	L	K	R	K	S	I	N	O
S	G	E	N	I	U	S	C	I	M
U	T	R	E	B	L	A	S	E	X

Albert
Einstein
Energy
Genius
Mass
Math
Mechanics
Molecule
Motion
Nobel
Physics
Prize
Relativity
Science
Theory

metro.us/wander

Category: Book

	C	H	N	
D	L	I	R	O
R	O	F	E	C
E	N	T	H	

Trace a path, using every letter once, to find the hidden phrase. Your path can turn in any direction, but not diagonally.

metro.us/sudoku

7			9			8		1
6			8		2		7	
	8		5					9
	6	2			1	5		
		5	7			1	6	
3					8		1	
	1		4		7			3
5		7			6			4

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Yesterday's Answers

B	A	T	H			A	L	L	S		A	R	M	S
E	Q	U	A	L		L	I	E	U		S	O	A	P
S	U	R	G	E		L	E	G	I	S	L	A	T	E
T	A	P		S	H	E			T	E	A	M	E	D
		E	S	S	A	Y			C	A	N			
D	A	N	I	E	L			B	A	L	T	I	C	
A	L	T	A	R		A	M	A	S	S		N	A	P
S	L	I	M		P	L	A	N	E		M	E	M	O
H	E	N		G	A	L	E	S		S	A	V	E	D
	N	E	A	R	L	Y			P	E	R	I	L	S
			M	I	A			J	A	N	E	T		
A	B	R	U	P	T			O	N	A		A	P	R
B	R	A	S	S	I	E	R	E		T	A	B	L	E
L	A	N	E		A	W	A	Y		E	L	L	E	N
E	G	G	S		L	E	T	S			S	E	A	T

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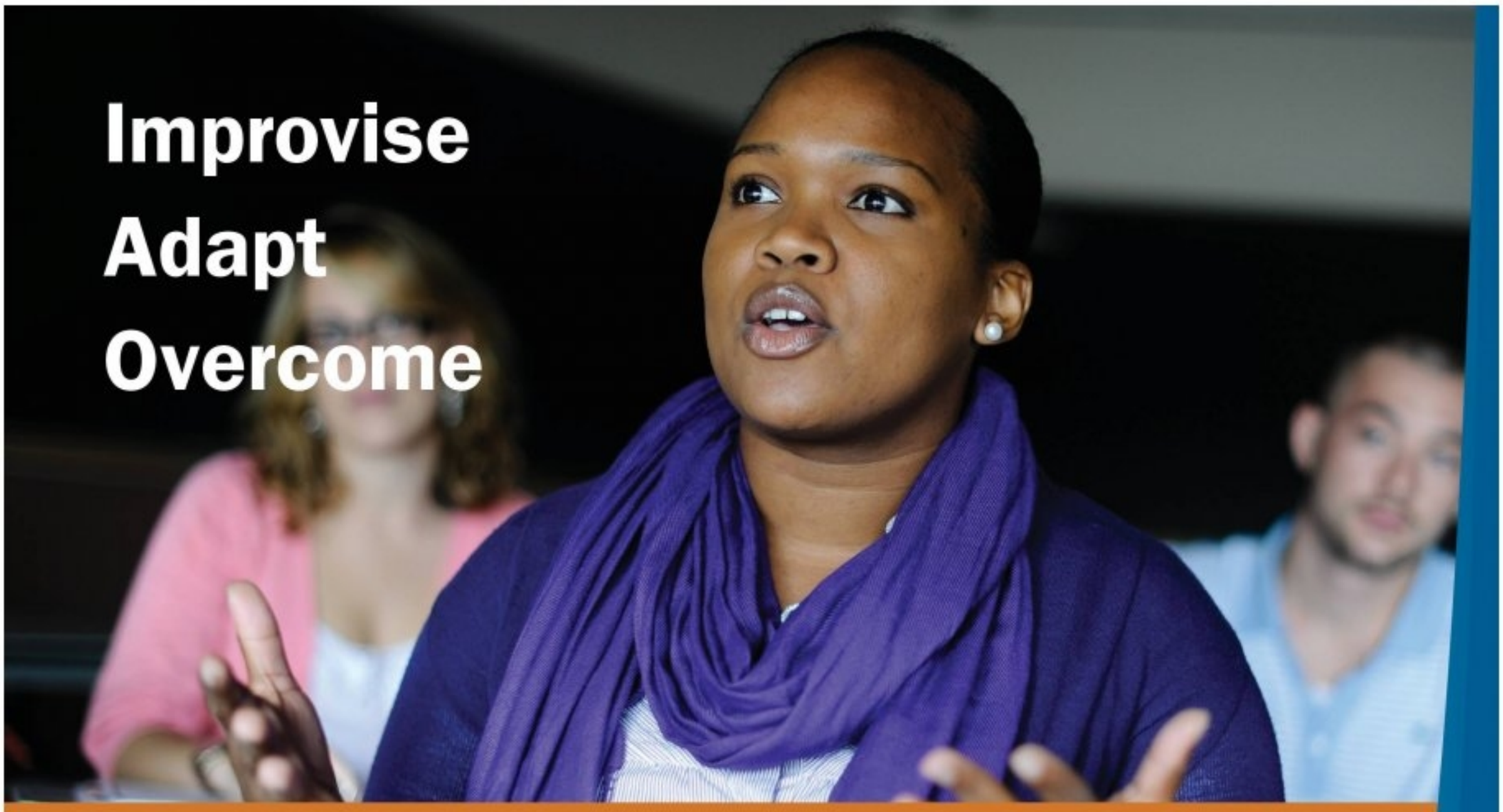

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